

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L WARSAW 3506

DEPARTMENT PASS TO NSF FOR DR. ATKINSON

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: TPHY OSCI TGEN PL
SUBJ: COPERNICUS ASTRONOMICAL CENTER

REF: (A) WARSAW 3435, (B) STATE 102457, (C) STATE 97947

1. AS REQUESTED REF B, I CALLED ON PAN SCIENTIFIC SECRETARY JAN KACZMAREK APRIL 26 TO SEEK CLARIFICATION OF POLISH INTENTIONS REGARDING USE OF THE COPERNICUS CENTER.
2. KACZMAREK BEGAN WITH AN EXPRESSION OF FULL SATISFACTION WITH THE JOINT FUND COOPERATIVE PROGRAM WITH THE US AND SPOKE OF THE FRIENDLINESS AND GOOD SPIRIT BETWEEN THE US AND POLISH SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITIES. WITH SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO THE FIELD OF ASTRONOMY, HE NOTED THAT IN ADDITION TO THE COOPERATIVE ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE US CENTERING ON THEORETICAL ASTRONOMY, POLAND HAD AN AGREEMENT WITH THE SOVIET ACADEMY CONCERNING COOPERATIVE SPACE RESEARCH, IN WHICH POLISH ASTRONOMERS PARTICIPATE.
3. KACZMAREK THEN CONFIRMED THAT SPACE RESEARCHERS ARE TO SHARE QUARTERS IN THE COPERNICUS CENTER, AND INDICATED THAT SOME MAY ALREADY HAVE MOVED IN. HE SAID THE ACTUAL NUMBER OF POLISH ASTRONOMERS NOW AVAILABLE FOR THE CENTER, INCLUDING ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF, NUMBER ONLY ABOUT 80 AND WOULD TAKE UP NO MORE THAN A
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PART OF THE COPERNICUS CENTER AREA OF ABOUT 5,000 SQUARE METERS. PLANS ARE UNDERWAY TO TRAIN MORE ASTRONOMERS. MEANWHILE, HE SAID, SOME SPACE SCIENTISTS WOULD OCCUPY THE VACANT AREA, BUT FOR NO LONGER THAN ONE YEAR TO 18 MONTHS, WHILE A SEPARATE SPACE RESEARCH BUILDING IS BEING CONSTRUCTED. HE ALSO NOTED THAT THE COPERNICUS CENTER WILL BE COMPLETELY READY FOR THE OPENING CEREMONY ON MAY 24.

4. I DREW UPON THE POINTS IN PARAGRAPH 2 OF REF C IN EXPRESSING OUR SERIOUS CONCERN AND EMPHASIZED THAT NSF HAD NOT BEEN CONSULTED AT ALL ABOUT THESE PLANS TO SHARE THE CENTER'S FACILITIES. I INDICATED DOUBT THAT DR. ATKINSON WOULD BE WILLING TO COME TO POLAND FOR THE COPERNICUS CENTER OPENING UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES. I ALSO NOTED KACZMAREK'S OWN REMARK THAT RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN ASTRONOMERS AND SPACE SCIENTISTS ARE NOT ALWAYS OF THE BEST, EVEN THOUGH THE TWO FIELDS MAY OFTEN OVERLAP.

5. KACZMAREK SAID THAT HE WOULD PROMPTLY WRITE A LETTER OF EXPLANATION TO DR. ATKINSON. HE ALSO WOULD SEEK THE OPINION OF PROFESSOR SMAK, WHOM HE HELD IN HIGH REGARD, ABOUT THE PROSPECTS I HAD MENTIONED OF AN ADVERSE REACTION AMONG US ASTRONOMERS. KACZMAREK INQUIRED WHETHER NAS PRESIDENT HANDLER PLANNED TO ACCEPT THE PAN INVITATION TO THE CENTER'S OPENING CEREMONY; I SAID I HAD NO INFORMATION.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: (A) IF THE DEPARTMENT AND NSF CONCUR, I NOW PROPOSE TO CALL ON SCIENCE MINISTER KALISKI, TO INFORM HIM THAT, ON THE BASIS OF DR. KACZMAREK'S REPLIES TO OUR INQUIRIES, DR. ATKINSON WILL NOT COME TO POLAND UNLESS THE PLAN TO SHARE THE COPERNICUS CENTER FACILITIES IS CANCELLED. (FYI: I PLAN TO GIVE HIM DR. ATKINSON'S LETTER OF APRIL 14 TO KALISKI, EXPLAINING THAT HIS ACCEPTANCE HAS PRESUMABLY NOW BEEN OVERTAKEN BY THE UNFORTUNATE ASSIGNMENTS. END FYI) (B) I RECOMMEND A CONFIDENTIAL

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SIMILAR APPROACH BE MADE AT THE SAME TIME IN WASHINGTON TO AMBASSADOR SPASOWSKI. (C) TO REINFORCE OUR POSITION, I ALSO RECOMMEND THAT NAS PRESIDENT HANDLER ADOPT THE SAME STAND AGAINST VISITING POLAND UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES.
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